

Prescribed Grazing (528) Requirements

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) 2009

Eligible lands: Pasture and other land that is used for both pasture and hay, not land just used for hay production or grazed crop residue. Not eligible for additional cost share for Pasture and Hay Planting; however, Nutrient Management may be applied on the same acres.

Maximum Acres: 100 acres

Develop a conservation plan with a grazing component for the land with NRCS assistance. (May need to over-seed with legumes and/or grasses as needed in order to maintain the desired stand.)

Balance forage. Completion of a livestock and forage balance is required. Adjust livestock numbers, fertilizer rates, or purchased feed in order to meet livestock forage needs.

Implement a rotational grazing plan as follows: Minimum of five (5) paddocks or fields. Develop a grazing system which plans for no more than 14 days of continuous grazing on similar production level paddocks or fields. However, In times of drought or extreme wet conditions livestock may be held on one paddock to protect other paddocks from overgrazing. The paddock livestock are held on will not have sensitive areas.

Do not graze forages lower than the minimum grazing height. Graze no more than 20 percent of the acreage to less than the minimum grazing height. Adjust stocking rate, management or inputs as needed to manage grazing heights.

- 2" for bermudagrass, ryegrass
- 3" for cool season grasses (e.g. tall fescue, orchardgrass, cereal grains)
- 6" for tall upright grasses (e.g. native grass, millet, sorghums)

Control weeds in the pasture by clipping, spraying, high density grazing, mixed species grazing and/or wiping as needed. Complete a pest management plan as a part of the conservation plan.

Recordkeeping is needed in all agricultural operations; livestock production is no exception. See the sample record keeping sheet (Pasture Record for Prescribed Grazing Incentive) on this web site.

Minimum records required for each grazing rotation are:

- Field/Paddock Number
- Number of animals/pounds(average weight)
- Date beginning grazing
- Beginning grazing height
- Number of days grazed

Payments for prescribed grazing will be made at the end of the rotational grazing season. In Tennessee, the grazing season extends from April-October, thus cost-share should not be made until the end of the grazing system (i.e. the middle of September to the end of October). Records of rotational grazing must be submitted with receipts and request for payment.

Pasture Record:

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